#### BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 2007-267

ANTHONY DIMAS ARELLANO, R.N. 6842 Kramer Street

OAH No. L-2007060359

San Diego, CA 92111

Registered Nurse License No. 530634

Respondent.

#### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on <u>Learnber 13, 2017</u>.

It is so ORDERED <u>NOJEMBER 13, 2007</u>.

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FOR THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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1	EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California LINDA K. SCHNEIDER		
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10	BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
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13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 2007-267	
14	ANTHONY DIMAS ARELLANO, R.N. 6842 Kramer Street	OAH No. L-2007060359	
15	San Diego, CA 92111	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER	
16	Registered Nurse License No. 530634		
17	Respondent.		
18			
19	In the interest of a prompt and speedy settlement of this matter, consistent with the		
20	public interest and the responsibility of the Board of Registered Nursing of the Department of		
21	Consumer Affairs, the parties hereby agree to the following Stipulated Settlement and		
22	Disciplinary Order which will be submitted to the Board for approval and adoption as the final		
23	disposition of the Accusation.		
24	<u>PARTIES</u>		
25	1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H, R.N (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of		
26	the Board of Registered Nursing. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is		
27	represented in this matter by Edmund G. Brown Jr., Attorney General of the State of California,		
28	by Diane De Kervor, Deputy Attorney General.		

- 2. Respondent Anthony Dimas Arellano, R.N. (Respondent) is representing himself in this proceeding and has chosen not to exercise his right to be represented by counsel.
- 3. On or about March 10, 1997, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered Nurse License No. 530634 to Respondent. The License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 2007-267 and will expire on June 30, 2008, unless renewed.

### **JURISDICTION**

4. Accusation No. 2007-267 was filed before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on April 24, 2007. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 2007-267 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

#### **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 2007-267. Respondent has also carefully read, and fully understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

#### **CULPABILITY**

8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. 2007-267.

9. Respondent agrees that his Registered Nurse License is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

#### **CIRCUMSTANCES IN MITIGATION**

10. Respondent has never been the subject of any disciplinary action. He is admitting responsibility at an early stage in the proceedings and has been very cooperative in resolving this matter.

#### **CONTINGENCY**

Nursing. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Registered Nursing may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

12. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

#### **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Registered Nurse License No. 530634 issued to Respondent Anthony Dimas Arellano, R.N. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and

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Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions.

Severability Clause. Each condition of probation contained herein is a separate and distinct condition. If any condition of this Order, or any application thereof, is declared unenforceable in whole, in part, or to any extent, the remainder of this Order, and all other applications thereof, shall not be affected. Each condition of this Order shall separately be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

1. **Obey All Laws.** Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws. A full and detailed account of any and all violations of law shall be reported by Respondent to the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of occurrence. To permit monitoring of compliance with this condition, Respondent shall submit completed fingerprint forms and fingerprint fees within 45 days of the effective date of the decision, unless previously submitted as part of the licensure application process.

Criminal Court Orders: If Respondent is under criminal court orders, including probation or parole, and the order is violated, this shall be deemed a violation of these probation conditions, and may result in the filing of an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation.

2. **Comply with the Board's Probation Program.** Respondent shall fully comply with the conditions of the Probation Program established by the Board and cooperate with representatives of the Board in its monitoring and investigation of the Respondent's compliance with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall inform the Board in writing within no more than 15 days of any address change and shall at all times maintain an active, current license status with the Board, including during any period of suspension.

Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license shall be fully restored.

3. **Report in Person.** Respondent, during the period of probation, shall appear in person at interviews/meetings as directed by the Board or its designated representatives.

4. Residency, Practice, or Licensure Outside of State. Periods of residency or practice as a registered nurse outside of California shall not apply toward a reduction of this probation time period. Respondent's probation is tolled, if and when he resides outside of California. Respondent must provide written notice to the Board within 15 days of any change of residency or practice outside the state, and within 30 days prior to re-establishing residency or returning to practice in this state.

Respondent shall provide a list of all states and territories where he has ever been licensed as a registered nurse, vocational nurse, or practical nurse. Respondent shall further provide information regarding the status of each license and any changes in such license status during the term of probation. Respondent shall inform the Board if he applies for or obtains a new nursing license during the term of probation.

5. **Submit Written Reports.** Respondent, during the period of probation, shall submit or cause to be submitted such written reports/declarations and verification of actions under penalty of perjury, as required by the Board. These reports/declarations shall contain statements relative to Respondent's compliance with all the conditions of the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall immediately execute all release of information forms as may be required by the Board or its representatives.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to the nursing regulatory agency in every state and territory in which he has a registered nurse license.

6. Function as a Registered Nurse. Respondent, during the period of probation, shall engage in the practice of registered nursing in California for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

For purposes of compliance with the section, "engage in the practice of registered nursing" may include, when approved by the Board, volunteer work as a registered nurse, or work in any non-direct patient care position that requires licensure as a registered nurse.

The Board may require that advanced practice nurses engage in advanced practice nursing for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of his good faith efforts to comply with this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation shall apply.

7. Employment Approval and Reporting Requirements. Respondent

7. **Employment Approval and Reporting Requirements.** Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before commencing or continuing any employment, paid or voluntary, as a registered nurse. Respondent shall cause to be submitted to the Board all performance evaluations and other employment related reports as a registered nurse upon request of the Board.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to his employer and immediate supervisors prior to commencement of any nursing or other health care related employment.

In addition to the above, Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after he obtains any nursing or other health care related employment. Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after he is terminated or separated, regardless of cause, from any nursing, or other health care related employment with a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding the termination or separation.

8. **Supervision.** Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board regarding Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration before commencing or continuing any employment as a registered nurse, or education and training that includes patient care.

Respondent shall practice only under the direct supervision of a registered nurse in good standing (no current discipline) with the Board of Registered Nursing, unless alternative methods of supervision and/or collaboration (e.g., with an advanced practice nurse or physician) are approved.

Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration may include, but is not limited to the following:

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- (a) Maximum The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is present in the patient care area or in any other work setting at all times.
- (b) Moderate The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is in the patient care unit or in any other work setting at least half the hours Respondent works.
- (c) Minimum The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration has person-to-person communication with Respondent at least twice during each shift worked.
- (d) Home Health Care If Respondent is approved to work in the home health care setting, the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall have person-to-person communication with Respondent as required by the Board each work day. Respondent shall maintain telephone or other telecommunication contact with the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration as required by the Board during each work day. The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall conduct, as required by the Board, periodic, on-site visits to patients' homes visited by Respondent with or without Respondent present.
- 9. **Employment Limitations.** Respondent shall not work for a nurse's registry, in any private duty position as a registered nurse, a temporary nurse placement agency, a traveling nurse, or for an in-house nursing pool.

Respondent shall not work for a licensed home health agency as a visiting nurse unless the registered nursing supervision and other protections for home visits have been approved by the Board. Respondent shall not work in any other registered nursing occupation where home visits are required.

Respondent shall not work in any health care setting as a supervisor of registered nurses. The Board may additionally restrict Respondent from supervising licensed vocational nurses and/or unlicensed assistive personnel on a case-by-case basis.

Respondent shall not work as a faculty member in an approved school of nursing or as an instructor in a Board approved continuing education program.

Respondent shall work only on a regularly assigned, identified and predetermined worksite(s) and shall not work in a float capacity.

 If Respondent is working or intends to work in excess of 40 hours per week, the Board may request documentation to determine whether there should be restrictions on the hours of work.

10. **Complete a Nursing Course(s).** Respondent, at his own expense, shall enroll and successfully complete a course(s) relevant to the practice of registered nursing no later than six months prior to the end of his probationary term.

Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before enrolling in the course(s). Respondent shall submit to the Board the original transcripts or certificates of completion for the above required course(s). The Board shall return the original documents to Respondent after photocopying them for its records.

11. **Cost Recovery.** Respondent shall pay to the Board costs associated with its investigation and enforcement pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3 in the amount of \$3,500.00. Respondent shall be permitted to pay these costs in a payment plan approved by the Board, with payments to be completed no later than three months prior to the end of the probation term.

If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of his good faith efforts to comply with this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation will apply.

12. **Violation of Probation.** If Respondent violates the conditions of his probation, the Board after giving Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may set aside the stay order and impose the stayed discipline (revocation/suspension) of Respondent's license.

If during the period of probation, an accusation or petition to revoke probation has been filed against Respondent's license or the Attorney General's Office has been requested to prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation against Respondent's license, the

probationary period shall automatically be extended and shall not expire until the accusation or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

13. License Surrender. During Respondent's term of probation, if he ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the conditions of probation, Respondent may surrender his license to the Board. The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances, without further hearing. Upon formal acceptance of the tendered license and wall certificate, Respondent will no longer be subject to the conditions of probation.

Surrender of Respondent's license shall be considered a disciplinary action and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board. A registered nurse whose license has been surrendered may petition the Board for reinstatement no sooner than the following minimum periods from the effective date of the disciplinary decision:

- Two years for reinstatement of a license that was surrendered for any  $\cdot (1)$ reason other than a mental or physical illness; or
  - One year for a license surrendered for a mental or physical illness. **(2)**

## ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Registered Nurse License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Registered Nursing.

DATED:

Respondent

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## **ENDORSEMENT**

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Registered Nursing of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

DATED

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California

LINDA K. SCHNEIDER Supervising Deputy Attorney General

DIANE DE KERVOR Deputy Attorney General

Attorneys for Complainant

DOJ Matter ID: SD2006800105 80152601.wpd

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9	Attorneys for Complainant		
10	BEFORE THE		
11	BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
12	STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 2007-267	
14	ANTHONY DIMAS ARELLANO 6842 Kramer Street  A C C U S A T I O N		
15	San Diego, CA 92111		
16	Registered Nurse License No. 530634		
17	Respondent.		
18	Complainant alleges:		
19	<u>PARTIE</u>	<u> </u>	
20	1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N. ("Complainant") brings this Accusation		
21	solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing,		
22	Department of Consumer Affairs.		
23	2. On or about March 10, 1997, the Board of Registered Nursing ("Board")		
24	issued Registered Nurse License Number 530634 to Anthony Dimas Arellano ("Respondent").		
25	The license will expire on June 30, 2008, unless renewed.		
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#### **JURISDICTION**

3. Section 2750 of the Business and Professions Code ("Code") provides:

"Every certificate holder or licensee, including licensees holding temporary licenses, or licensees holding licenses placed in an inactive status, may be disciplined as provided in this article [Article 3 of the Nursing Practice Act (Bus. & Prof Code, § 2700 et seq.)]. As used in this article, 'license' includes certificate, registration, or any other authorization to engage in practice regulated by this chapter. The proceedings under this article shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code [the Administrative Procedure Act], and the board shall have all the powers granted therein."

## STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

4. Code section 2761, subdivision (a)(1) provides:

"The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

- "(a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- "(1) Incompetence, or gross negligence in carrying out usual certified or licensed nursing functions."
  - 5. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1442, provides:

"As used in Section 2761 of the code, 'gross negligence' includes an extreme departure from the standard of care which, under similar circumstances, would have ordinarily been exercised by a competent registered nurse. Such an extreme departure means the repeated failure to provide nursing care as required or failure to provide care or to exercise ordinary precaution in a single situation which the nurse knew, or should have known, could have jeopardized the client's health or life."

6. Code section 125.3 provides that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

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#### FACTS SUPPORTING CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

- 7. Respondent was employed at Scripps Mercy Hospital, located in San Diego, California, from on or about October 21, 1988, until the termination of his employment on March 14, 2004.
- 8. On March 10, 2004, Patient M. B.'s primary physician, Dr. A.D., prepared detailed patient inter-facility transfer orders directing that Patient M. B. be transferred from Scripps Mercy Hospital to a skilled nursing facility, and including 25 orders for care.
- 9. During his shift on March 11, 2004, Respondent was directed to make Patient M. B. ready for transfer from Scripps Mercy to a skilled nursing facility. On that day, Patient M.B.'s Case Manager noted that the Dr. A.D.'s orders were missing. Instead, the Case Manager found orders written by Respondent.
- 10. Without verifying the identity of Patient M. B.'s primary physician or attempting to discern whether patient transfer orders had been previously prepared for Patient M. B., Respondent prepared a patient transfer order by copying medication information from Patient M. B.'s medical records onto a patient inter-facility transfer order form.
- 11. The patient inter-facility transfer order prepared by Respondent did not contain the detailed instructions contained in Dr. A.D.'s transfer order. The orders Respondent prepared had only 11 of the 25 orders for patient M.B.'s care and put the patient at risk for potential fatal complications.
- 12. Without consulting Dr. D.M., Respondent entered his name in the physician signature box in the orders he prepared. Dr. D.M. was not Patient M. B.'s primary physician, and he would not have written the transfer orders for Patient M.B.
  - 13. The transfer orders were corrected before the patient was transferred.

#### CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

#### (Gross Negligence)

14. Respondent's license is subject to discipline for unprofessional conduct under Code section 2761, subdivision (a)(1), in that on or about March 11, 2004, while working at Scripps Mercy Hospital, Respondent committed acts of gross negligence by preparing

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incorrect and incomplete patient inter-facility transfer orders for Patient M. B. without identifying, consulting with, or seeking approval from the patient's attending physician, as set forth in paragraphs 7 to 13, inclusive, which are realleged and incorporated herein by this

#### PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing the Board issue a decision:

- Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 530634, issued
- Ordering Anthony Dimas Arellano to pay the reasonable costs incurred by the Board in the investigation and enforcement of this case pursuant to Code section 125.3; and,
  - Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

**Executive Officer** 

Board of Registered Nursing

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

Complainant

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